I find M. de Maulde spoke well of me at the Directory, and said I was above soliciting my return, and have so many resources within myself that I can never be *ennuye.*

The Emperor's peace is signed. Portugal has made a separate one, so we are left alone.

I will now read over and answer some of your questions. I wish the hedge continued as near the house as possible, to seclude our walk and gardens from intruders. Has the yew taken, that was planted over the wall ? The whins[1] here are very hard to rear, though I do not think the birch-trees[2] overshadow them at all. There is a species of bloody whin[3] that is likely to spoil the whole plantation. In this season it is very much heated, and those that have thorns[4] will overpower the rest; if so, the whole nursery will fail, and all be rooted out.

The Revolution has swept away the *literati* and the monuments. I have been to Moret, but do not know any means of giving information concerning kings and kings' children.[5]

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1 Republic.
2 Royalists.
3 Jacobin,

4 Troops.
5 A negress, daughter of Louis XIV. and his Queen,
was shut up at Moret.